

KNOW THE LAW!

There are state and federal laws regarding excavating, defacing, or damaging archaeological resources. Penalties for knowingly disturbing these resources include fines and even prison time! One outstanding case from 2010 at the Lake Meade Recreation Area resulted in a person being sentenced to 15 months in prison and fined \$10,000 for knowingly defacing petroglyphs.

A person who knowingly excavates in violation of this law is guilty of a class 5 felony pursuant to the Arizona Criminal Code - Title 13. See Archaeological Discoveries (A.R.S. §41-841(A)).



Geocaching has become a popular activity, but can be damaging to archaeological sites. Created as an outdoor sporting activity, "cachers" use GPS coordinates to locate small containers of knick knacks. Unfortunately, when geocachers hide their prizes at archaeological sites, placement of the cache may disturb the site. Also, broadcasting the coordinates to the geocache creates a direct path to the site, making it easier to locate and possibly vandalize.



GET INVOLVED!

Become an [Arizona Site Steward](#)! It's a great program to be a part of if you are interested in working in your community to help preserve cultural resources. Site Stewards are responsible for monitoring important prehistoric and historic sites and reporting any damage to the land manager.



For more information, visit the [Arizona State Parks](#) website.

S'edav Va'aki Museum



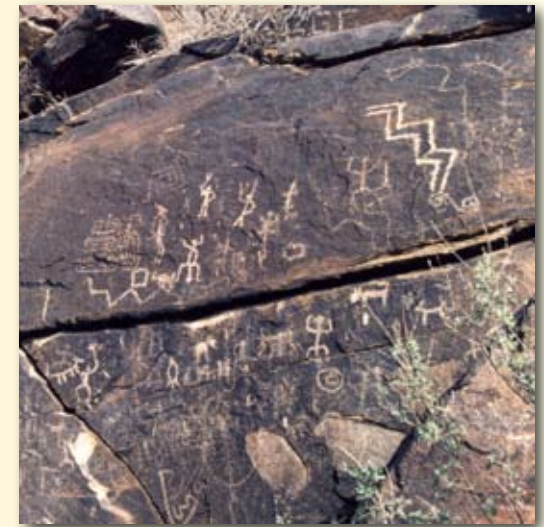
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PROTECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

HELP PRESERVE OUR PREHISTORIC TREASURES



The unique landscape of Phoenix includes nearly 1000 archaeological sites representing thousands of years of occupation by prehistoric and historic cultures. These sites and their contents are non-renewable resources, and you can help preserve them.

S'edav Va'aki Museum

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PRESERVE OUR PREHISTORIC TREASURES

PRESERVATION MATTERS!

The City takes preservation seriously. In 1929, Phoenix was the first city in the nation to hire its own archaeologist. It is important that nature and history enthusiasts understand that preserving our cultural resources is essential! Archaeological sites must be protected so we can continue to learn about the past to better understand the challenges of the present and future.

PLEASE, LEAVE NO TRACE!

Don't deface, move, or even touch petroglyphs. Just the oils from your skin can damage fragile petroglyphs. Once they are damaged or removed from their context, little can be learned from them.



Context can reveal much about prehistoric features and artifacts.

Don't pick up or move artifacts. Their context, or place in the site, tells a story – once they are moved part of the past is lost.

Don't sit or climb on walls. They are fragile and easily damaged.

Stay on trails. This is for your protection as well as the protection of the sites.

No fires, candles or smoking at sites. They can destroy organic remains, impair dating of artifacts, and destroy rock art.

Do not bring pets. They can damage archaeological sites.

Carry out your trash. It may impact cultural deposits in sites, making it more difficult to reconstruct past environments.

WHAT ARE PETROGLYPHS?



Petroglyphs are ancient illustrations created by pecking away the outer, darker layer of stone to expose the lighter-colored stone beneath, thereby creating images. These prehistoric resources are found throughout the city in our mountain preserves and parks. Petroglyphs in this region were primarily created by the Hohokam who occupied the area from AD 450 through AD 1450. Earlier, Archaic cultures and later, historic cultures also created rock art.

The City of Phoenix is dedicated to preserving prehistoric and historic cultural resource sites, including petroglyphs.

S'edav Ya'aki Platform Mound, ca AD 1300. This Hohokam site is preserved by the City of Phoenix. Illustration by Michael Hampshire



NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES

Petroglyphs are frequently damaged by acts of vandalism such as spray painting, chipping, gun fire, and graffiti. Once the damage is done, it's nearly impossible to repair.

The time it takes to vandalize a rock art panel is only a fraction of the time it takes to restore it. Restoration can be extremely costly when done correctly. Using harsh solvents to remove paint is not appropriate, because it can damage the petroglyph.



Examples of rock art vandalism



Even with careful removal methods, the damaged petroglyph will never be the same, and valuable information about the past can be lost forever.